

CHAPTER 99  
HB 1837-FN - FINAL VERSION

12Feb2026... 0332h  
7May2026... 1880EBA

2026 SESSION

26-2990  
06/08

HOUSE BILL

***1837-FN***

AN ACT relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol.

SPONSORS: Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 3; Rep. Hamblen, Carr. 3; Rep. Peternel, Carr. 6; Rep. Rung, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

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ANALYSIS

This bill modifies boating laws by updating penalties, increasing mooring field fees, prohibiting certain operating practices, requiring vessel display standards, and removing specified safety provisions.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 99:1 Penalties. Amend RSA 270:18 to read as follows:

2 270:18 Penalty.

3 *I.* If any person operates any boat required to be registered under RSA 270-E without  
4 registration, or violates any provision of RSA 270, or ***RSA*** 270-E, or any rule adopted by the department of  
5 safety relating to the equipment or operation of such boats, or does not exhibit, upon request, the  
6 certificate of registration of such boat to any duly authorized representative of the department, such  
7 person, and the owner of the boat if the boat is operated with his ***or her*** permission or assent, shall be  
8 guilty of a violation.

9 *II. Unless otherwise provided in statute, any person convicted of a violation of any provision of*  
10 *this chapter, or of any rule made under authority thereof, shall be fined \$50 plus penalty assessment for a*  
11 *first offense. For any subsequent offense committed during any calendar year, such person shall be fined*  
12 *\$100 plus penalty assessment.*

13 99:2 Riding on Gunwales, Bow and Transom RSA 270-D:7 is repealed and reenacted to read as  
14 follows:

15 270-D:7 Riding on Gunwales, Bow and Transom. No person shall operate a motorboat while a  
16 person is sitting on the gunwale, transom, or straddling the bow while the motorboat is in operation  
17 underway.

18 99:3 Public and Congregate Mooring Fields, Permit Required. Amend RSA 270:67, I(c) to read as  
19 follows:

20 (c) Each public mooring field applicant shall be assessed [a] ***an annual mooring*** fee [of \$25 which  
21 shall be deposited in the navigation safety fund established under RSA 270-E:6-a] ***as specified in RSA***  
22 ***270:62.***

23 99:4 Public and Congregate Mooring Fields; Permit Required. Amend RSA 270:67, II(c) to read as  
24 follows:

25 (c) Each congregate mooring field ***applicant*** permitted by the director shall be assessed an  
26 annual mooring fee [of \$25 for each mooring installed in the congregate mooring field which shall be  
27 deposited in the navigation safety fund established under RSA 270-E:6-a] ***as specified in RSA 270:62.***

28 99:5 Display of Numbers and Decals Required. Amend RSA 270-E:8 to read as follows:

29 270-E:8 Display of Numbers and Decals Required.

30 I. Every vessel required to be registered in this state shall display the boat fee decal under RSA  
31 270-E:5-a and the vessel numbers issued to the vessel as part of the registration process, unless the  
32 vessel is exempt under the provisions of RSA 270-E:9.

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1           II. *The owner shall paint on, attach or otherwise display to each side of the forward half of the*  
2 *vessel the numbers assigned by the department not less than 3 inches in height, with block letters of*  
3 *contrasting color, and they shall be clearly readable when the vessel is being operated. The numbers*  
4 *shall be maintained in legible condition. No numbers other than the numbers validly assigned to a vessel*  
5 *shall be painted, attached or otherwise displayed on either side of the forward half of such vessel.*

6           III. Any person who operates a vessel on the inland or tidal and coastal waters of this state  
7 without displaying the vessel numbers, boat fee decal, or other decal required by this chapter in the  
8 manner required by this chapter, unless exempt under the provisions of RSA 270-E:9, shall be guilty of a  
9 violation for a first offense and a misdemeanor for a second offense.

10         99:6 Repeal. The following are repealed:

11           I. RSA 270:46-a, relative to boat safety courses.

12           II. RSA 270-D:2-c, III, relative to rental boat safety checklists.

13         99:7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: May 28, 2026  
Effective Date: May 28, 2026

